

A. FORM 112—PART

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. 52A-5342	(LEAVE BLANK) EP 140040
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Sociological and Political Conditions in the USSR	(INTERVIEWER) HENNIG, Christian (FN)	(EDITOR) CANTOR
AREA REPORTED ON VORKUTA, BRYANKA, KRASNOPOL, GUNDOROVKA	FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAF)	
DATE OF REPORT 8 Feb 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Sep 49 - Dec 53	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN, Lt Col, USAF	SOURCE 217434	
REFERENCES: (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

1. SOURCE was born on 20 Feb 1899 in LIEGNITZ (5112N-1612E) and moved with his parents to BOROVICHI (5824N-3355E) in 1903. There, he attended the elementary and secondary school for 9 years. Before World War I, SOURCE returned with his parents to Germany. He worked as an electrician for 24 years. SOURCE speaks the Russian language fluently.

2. SOURCE was confined in the USSR in the following camps: Number unknown, IRLAVA (coordinates unknown), PW camp, May 45 to Aug 46, worked as farm hand on a collective farm and had only loose contact with Soviet citizens. Camp #25, RIGA (5656N-2410E), PW camp, Aug 46 to Sep 47, worked on road repair and had no contact with Soviet citizens. Camp #25, MOSKVA (5545N-3735E), PW camp, Sep 47 to Dec 48, worked for the camp administration and as an interpreter, had business contact only with camp officers, had no private talks with them. Camp, number unknown, BOROVICHI, PW camp, Dec 48 to Jul 49, worked on interpreting Russian newspapers into German, had only loose contact with Soviet citizens and talked with them privately very seldom. Camps #19, 61, 35, and 17, VORKUTA (6730N-6403E), all forced labor camps for political and criminal prisoners, Sep 49 to Jul 50, worked as electrician in camps and coal mines and had close contact with Soviet citizens. Camp, number unknown, BRYANSKIY (4830N-3840E), forced labor camp for PWs, Aug 50 to Jan 52, worked as an electrician in a new coal processing plant, had close contact with Soviet citizens. Camp #5110/1, KRASNOPOLYE (5047N-3515E), forced labor camp for PWs, Jan 52 to Jul 52, worked as electrician in a coal mine and had close contact with Soviet citizens. Camp #5110/43, GUNDOROVKA (4821N-4001E), forced labor camp for PWs, Jul 52 to Dec 53, worked as an electrician in a new coal processing plant, had close contact with Soviet citizens. Two weeks prior to repatriation, SOURCE returned to KRASNOPOLYE where the transport was composed.

a. SOURCE was sentenced for "Espionage and Aggression against the USSR" on 20 Jul 49 in BOROVICHI. Trial, presided over by a Soviet major, had two jurors, one a 1st Lt, the other a 2nd Lt. There was no defense attorney. Trial lasted ten minutes. SOURCE was twice sentenced to death. As capital punishment was abolished in the USSR in 1947, sentence was commuted to twice 25 years at hard labor at the end of the trial. SOURCE had the impression that repatriation of prisoners was arbitrary and had no connection with charges of sentences.

3. It is felt by this interviewer, that SOURCE's reliability was fair, and that he was objective. At first, SOURCE was not too cooperative but after a certain "warm-up time", his willingness to cooperate was average.

No INCL.

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B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS:

4. Particularly opposed to the Soviet Regime were old people (50 and older) because they had known a better life and particularly disliked the stool-pigeon system. Ethnic Germans from VOLGA district who mostly were deported were opposed because they were removed from their (HEIMAT) Home-stead. Opposing also were forced laborers from Poland and the Baltic States which always had been natural enemies of the Soviet Regime.

5. Strong supporters of the Soviet Regime were party functionaries, a major part of the intelligentsia, MVD members and the young ones who had grown up in the "KOMSOVOLZ" Youth Organization. Party functionaries, the intelligentsia, and MVD members supported the Regime because they had good positions, certain privileges, and had the chance to rise to higher positions when they showed their loyalty. The young supported the Regime because they did not know better and were educated in the spirit of Communist Dogma. They felt that the Regime with its pressure was a natural method of selection.

6. Major sources of discontent of free workers in KRASNOPOLYE and GUNDOROVKA were: Inadequate supply of consumer goods and high prices of them, low pay, denunciation, corruption among leading personnel of government, party, and industry, disinterest in the people, forced labor.

C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF STALIN:

7. STALIN was regarded as "father of the people" by those who supported the Regime and as a dictator by those who opposed the Regime. He was criticized for building up too much power for himself. By those who supported the Regime he was put on the same level with LENIN and was regarded as his heir. SOURCE talked about this subject to free workers and members of the intelligentsia in BRYANSKIY, KRASNOPOLYE and GUNDOROVKA.

8. A major part of free workers in GUNDOROVKA showed joy about STALIN's death, while the rest and the intelligentsia kept reserved and neutral and were in a state of uncertainty. SOURCE could not decide whether these reactions were typical of the rest of the population.

9. The Amnesty Act of 27 Mar 53 was carried out. SOURCE had own knowledge and also learned from comrades that many convicts in VORKUTA, KRASNOPOLYE and GUNDOROVKA were released. SOURCE did not know if all prisoners were released who fell within Amnesty categories. Political prisoners were not released. Free workers in GUNDOROVKA were sceptical towards these measures. Some stated: Most workers were worn out and were no good for work anyway. New arrests will be made which will replace the released prisoners".

11. Free workers in GUNDOROVKA reacted with joy to the price reduction law. They were very satisfied with the price reductions and did not expect more for the beginning. They got new hope that life would be better in some time.

12. Spontaneous anti-Semitism was caused by the announcement of the arrest of the "KREMLIN Doctors". Inhabitants of GUNDOROVKA beat up Jews and asked for their deportation. To the repudiation of the changes announced on 4 Apr 53, the population did not react at all; they kept quiet; this move did not lower the prestige of the government to SOURCE's mind; he had no talks on this subject with Soviet citizens. No rumors were heard that BERIA had something to do with this move.

13. Free workers in GUNDOROVKA believed the official news that Allied agents caused the revolt on 17 Jun 53. They did not express any sympathy for the German workers. In Dec 53, when SOURCE was in a transit camp in KRASNOPOLYE, he learned from comrades who returned from VORKUTA, that many German rioters had arrived there.

14. As SOURCE learned from free workers in GUNDOROVKA, the military post commander of MOSKVA was responsible for BERIA's arrest. BERIA had issued a warrant of arrest for MALENKOV and turned the warrant over to the post commander for execution. He, however, showed the warrant to MALENKOV who then ordered the arrest of BERIA. Civilian workers were happy that BERIA was arrested because they held him responsible for the deportations and the pressure of the MVD. MVD officials became

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more friendly toward the German prisoners and seemed depressed by uncertainty.

17. Free workers in GUNDOROVKA explained that there was a power struggle between Red Army and Party. Leaders were ZHUKOV for the Army and MALENKOV for the Party. Both were liked by the people. ZHUKOV enjoyed sympathy for unknown reasons. MALENKOV was liked because he was given credit for the ameliorative measures. One worker explained the best would be when ZHUKOV and MALENKOV would make a fair deal and build up a new government together.

18. Free workers in GUNDOROVKA felt happier under the new regime. They had new hope that everything would improve and government was trusted to carry out its promises. A few older workers, however, did not believe that the promises would be fulfilled because, during the past years, too many promises were made and none carried out.

D. PURGES, RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND MASS ARRESTS:

21. In Dec 53, when SOURCE was confined in a transit camp in KRASNOPOLYE, he learned from comrades who returned from VORKUTA, that a revolt had broken out among the forced laborers in Jul 53, after the announcement of BERIA's dismissal. The prisoners, led by Polish nationals, asked for better food, and separation of political prisoners from criminals. To buttress their demands, they struck for three days. At the first day of the strike, camps were encircled by MVD troops who brought machine guns and light mortars in position. RUDENKO (former Soviet Prosecutor in NUREMBERG Military Tribunal) arrived by plane from MOSKVA and talked to the prisoners. Since they still refused to go to work, the MVD troops opened fire. A total of about 100 prisoners in the area were killed, a large number seriously wounded. After opening of fire, work was continued.

22. While SOURCE was confined in various camps in VORKUTA from Sep 49 to Jul 50, he met many prisoners who were deported from the Baltic States in 1945-1947; members of "JEHOVA's Witnesses", of Soviet and German nationality who were deported in 1949/50; and members of the former VLASOV Army. From the latter he learned that most of their comrades were killed.

E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

23. SOURCE was confined in, or knew about, following forced labor camps: In VORKUTA: Sep 49 to Jul 50, Camp #19, 870 inmates, 45 Germans, rest Soviet political and criminal prisoners, worked on coal mine constr; #51, 2,500, German, Soviet a few Latvians' political and criminal, worked on constr of a cement plant; #27, 2,500, 50% Soviet, a few Estonians and Latvians, political and criminal, worked in a brickyard; #15, 500, Soviet criminals, sentenced to special hard labor, worked on constr of a cement plant, separated from other prisoners; #29, 1,800 Germans, Soviets, Estonians, Latvians, Jews, and Mohammedans, political and criminal, worked in coal mines; #17, 2,000, Baltics predominant, political, worked in coal mines; #18, 1,200, Soviet political and criminals, worked in coal mines; #35, 300, recuperation camp, Germans predominant, no work; Camp PERESILKA (transit camp), 1,000-2,000 varying, Soviets, Germans, Baltics, Germans from Eastern Prussia and the SZG, Japanese, Chinese, and Kalmyks, worked in coal mines. All camps mentioned above were still active in Dec 53 as SOURCE learned from comrades he met later. Aug 50 to Jan 52, Camp, number unknown, BRYANSKIY, 1,200-1,600, political ex-PWs, worked on house constr and constr of a coal processing plant ZOV (ZENTRALNYE OBOGOTITELNAY FABRIKA - Central coal processing plant). Jan 52 to Jul 52, KRASNOPOLYE, #144/1, later changed to 5110/1, 1,200, political ex-PWs, about 50 Spaniards, reds of Spanish Civil War 1936 and members of Franco-Spanish "Blue Division", worked on house constr, in coal mines and stone quarries. Jul 52 to Dec 53, GUNDOROVKA, #144/4, later changed to 5110/45, 800, ex-PWs, most Germans, worked on constr of a coal processing plant (ZOV) and on house constr. All camps mentioned above were still active in Dec 53 as SOURCE knew of own experience or learned from comrades.

24. In Nov 49, when SOURCE was confined in transit camp in VORKUTA, he lived together in the same room with an USAF colonel. Name unknown, 35-36, 1.70-1.75 m, blond hair, eyes of a light color (blue or grey), lean face, broad-shouldered, slender, no info on residence in USA. He wore Russian trousers, jacket and

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shirt and a US brown leather jacket, lined with black lamb fur. SOURCE himself spoke no English, however, he was present when comrades talked with the colonel in English who told the following, story: He was caught by Soviet soldiers in BERLIN, close to the border of the Soviet sector in beginning of 1949. Was pushed into a car and brought to KARLSHORST (5229N-1332E) where he was interrogated by MVD for a few days. He was then transported by plane to MOSKVA and locked up in the LYUBLANKA Prison, where he was sentenced to 25 years hard labor on the charge of espionage against the USSR. He arrived in the transit camp in VORKUTA in Nov 49, was then transferred to an unknown camp in the area. In Jan or Feb 50, when SOURCE was confined in Camp #35 in VORKUTA, he met a Mr. NEUMANN, Karl, born about 1893, was from DANZIG (5421N-1840E), manager of the AMADA Margarine Plant, was sentenced to 15 years hard labor in 1947 or 1948, for "stealing Soviet Property" in that he used sunflower oil for producing margarine. In Oct 49, when SOURCE was confined in Camp #19, in VORKUTA, professor Dr. KRONBERGER or KRONEBERGER, born about 1893, 1,70 m, grey hair, lean face, sharp, pointed nose, deep set eyes, narrow lips, ascetic type, arrived. He was a lecturer of inorganic chemistry at the LEIPZIG (5118N-1220E) University and was made a professor by Soviet Authorities in 1946. Sometime in 1949, he was called to MOSKVA and received orders to work in the USSR on a certain project of which he did not talk. Work on this project was refused by him (reasons not given) for which he was sentenced to 25 years hard labor, charge unknown. On or about Christmas 1949, an MVD officer picked the professor up and told him he was to bring him to MOSKVA. SOURCE never heard again of this man. Two transports of forced laborers per week, Tuesdays and Fridays, arrived in VORKUTA, strength of transports varying between 30 and 150. From Nov 49 on, German civilians from SZG, men, women, boys and girls from 16 years up, arrived every three or four weeks. Most came from BERLIN and Saxony. They were sentenced to hard labor from 15 years up on charges of espionage by German and Soviet courts and were locked up in the ORANIENBURG (5245N-1314E) prison prior their deportation. A Dr. Dr. ZIMATIS, 61-62, 1,70 m, slender, broad shouldered, grey hair, chemist, former colonel in the General Staff in STALINGRAD (4842N-4430E), was transferred with SOURCE to BRYANSKIY in Aug 50. This man worked for the Soviet camp administration, usually censoring letters of the prisoners. He was not liked by the comrades and was separated by them because he was one of the leaders of the national committee "Free Germany". He was suspected by prisoners to be a stool-pigeon. SOURCE learned from comrades that Dr. ZIMATIS was brought to MOSKVA by MVD officer STERN, a Jew, in Jul 53. In Sep 53, the man returned and immediately was put in a transport of prisoners being repatriated. He told comrades that he would take up residence in DUESSELDORF (5114N-0645E). Rumors among the prisoners said that Dr. ZIMATIS would be an agent for the USSR.

F. VOICE OF AMERICA:

27. SOURCE was told by free workers in KRASNOPOLYE and GUNDOROVKA that they listened to VOA broadcasts almost daily between 2400 hours and 0200 hours, transmitted from RIAS BERLIN or other transmitters in Europe.

28. Receiving of programs was good, however, the time of broadcast was not propitious because Russian transmitters ended their programs about 2400 hours or transmitted music programs only after this time. So, bypassers hearing spoken Russian in the radio after this time, easily could find out that the owner of the radio was listening to foreign broadcasts.

29. SOURCE never heard that listeners to VOA showed any resentments because Soviet leaders were attacked.

30. Some listeners seemed to believe the news of VOA while others were weighing VOA news against Soviet news and tried to make up their own picture. In general, the listeners were glad to hear foreign broadcasts. Listeners to whom SOURCE talked about this subject, were free workers working on constr of new coal mines and a coal processing plant, age between 35 and 50; two were constr engineers. SOURCE talked to them during working hours or in the noon break, but always alone. No Soviet citizen ever make any criticizing remark in the presence of another

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Soviet citizen.

31. Info on 17 Jun was received from RIAS and Russian broadcasts. Listeners did not believe everything of RIAS because some of the news (not discussed in detail) seemed padded and bloated.

32. Jamming of VOA in the USSR was not too effective as SOURCE learned from listeners. In most cases, a little tuning was sufficient to overcome jamming.

33. Radios with short wave band could be bought on the open market. As they cost about 3,000 rubles, they could be afforded only by the intelligentsia, and high paid workers, such as specialists.

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